First Phase of National Expressway

†2457. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the first phase of National Expressway is going to be completed;

(b) the details of the amount spent so far alongwith the distance covered in Kms. and the places through which it will pass; and

(c) by when it would be opened for public and the starting and ending points thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) The first phase of National Expressway i.e. Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway Phase-I (km. 00 at Ahmedabad to km. 43.4 at Nadiad) stands completed and opened to traffic. The expenditure for Phase-I is Rs. 189 crore. The total distance covered is 43.4 km from Ahmedabad to Nadiad.

Sickness of SSIs

†2458. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently conducted any survey to ascertain the reasons for sickness of the small scale industries during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the percentage of the units assessed to be rendered sick due to each of these reasons?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Government have not conducted any specific survey to ascertain the reasons for sickness of the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) during the Ninth Five Year Plan. However, the Government have conducted

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

a Sample Survey of Registered SSI units during 2000-01 with 1999-00 as the reference year which inter-alia covered the reasons of sickness in the SSI sector. According to this survey, the reasons for sickness/incipient sickness alongwith the percentage of units becoming sick due to various reasons are marketing problems (30%), lack of demand (29%), shortage of working capital (16%), non-availability of raw material (5%), power shortage (4%), management problems (3%), labour problems (3%), equipment problems (3%) and other reasons (7%).

Long term plan for SSIs

2459. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has requested Government to frame a growth oriented and long term plan for the small scale industries sector in addition to budgetary support; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in its pre-budget memorandum for Small Industry has suggested that in order to achieve a 12% rate of growth (as targeted by the 10th Five Year Plan) in real terms, the small scale industries SSI Sector requires both resources and commitment. CII has, however, expressed that this should not be mistaken for any incentives or subsidies, instead growth oriented and long term plans, are the need of the hour.

The promotion and development of SSI through long term planning with a growth orientation has been a conscious policy of Government. Accordingly, Government announced a Comprehensive Policy Package in August 2000, to strengthen the small industries sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally. The policy package inter-alia includes easier access to credit, technology upgradation, improved infrastructure, entrepreneurship and market development etc.